### CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

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Investigator:		Team:	CCRB Case #:	▼ Force	е 🔲	Discourt.	☐ U.S.
Benjamin Shelton		Squad #11	201901626	Abus	se 🗆	O.L.	☐ Injury
Incident Date(s)		Location of Incident:	<u> </u>	Precin	ct: 18	Mo. SOL	EO SOL
Wednesday, 01/16/2019 8:26 PM		uptown platform of the Times Square Subway		14	7.	/16/2020	3/2/2021
Date/Time CV Reported		CV Reported At:	How CV Reported	: Date/	Time Rece	eived at CCl	RB
Thu, 02/21/2019 2:53 PM		CCRB	On-line website	Thu,	02/21/201	9 2:53 PM	
Complainant/Victim	Type	Home Addre	ess				
Subject Officer(s)	Shield	TaxID	Command				
1. POM Cesar Bermeo	29558	953679	TB M/TF				
2. POF Samantha Humburg	21750	957691	TB M/TF				
3. POM Derrick Williams	12049	929361	MTS PCT				
4. LSA Joseph Rauchet	00000	902938	TB M/TF				
Witness Officer(s)	Shield N	Tax No	Cmd Name				
1. POM Brian Mermelstein	12443	956094	TB M/TF				
2. POM Robert Moti	04149	918037	MTS PCT				
3. POM Jae Choi	06059	956523	TB M/TF				
Officer(s)	Allegation	on			Investiga	ator Recon	nmendation
A.POM Cesar Bermeo	Force: Poagainst §	olice Officer Cesar Bern 87(2)(b)	neo used physical fo	rce			
B.POM Derrick Williams	Abuse: P § 87(2)(b)	Police Officer Derrick W s use of a reco		ith			
C.LSA Joseph Rauchet	Abuse: L	ieutenant Joseph Rauch to the hospital.	et forcibly removed	§ 87(2)(b)			
D.POF Samantha Humburg	Abuse: P	Police Officer Samantha	Humburg stopped <sup>§</sup>	87(2)(b)			
E.POM Cesar Bermeo	Abuse: P § 87(2)(b)	Police Officer Cesar Berns s identification		ph of			

#### **Case Summary**

On February 21, 2019, ser/2/6) filed this complaint with the CCRB via the agency's website.

On January 16, 2019, at approximately 8:26 p.m., \$87(2)(b) was on the uptown
platform of the 1-/2-/3-train subway station at Times Square in Manhattan when he observed
with an apparent bloody injury to his leg on a staircase. §87(2)(b) called 911
and Transit Manhattan Task Force officers responded, including PO Cesar Bermeo, PO Brian
Mermelstein, PO Samantha Humburg, and PO Jae Choi. Midtown South Precinct officers PO
Robert Moti and PO Derrick Williams also responded. PO Bermeo allegedly ordered §87(2)(b)
to move away from \$87(2)(b) and when \$87(2)(b) refused, PO Bermeo allegedly grabbed
and caused him to fall and break his glasses (Allegation A: Force, \$87(2)(9)
PO Bermeo, PO Choi, and another unidentified officer restrained \$87(2)(b) on the stairs. When
began recording officers' restraint of §87(2)(b) on his cellphone, PO Williams
allegedly told him not to record (Allegation B: Abuse of Authority, \$87(2)(9)). Lt. Joseph
Rauchet of Transit Manhattan Task Force removed \$87(2)(b) from the subway station with
Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to transport him to a hospital while allegedly strapped to a
gurney (Allegation C: Abuse of Authority, §87(2)(9)
allegedly stopped \$87(2)(b) from leaving the train station (Allegations D: Abuse of Authority,
§ 87(2)(9) and PO Bermeo took a photograph of his identification (Allegation E: Abuse of
Authority, $\S$ 87(2)(9) ).
Authority, § 87(2)(9) ).

No arrests were made and no summonses were issued regarding this incident.

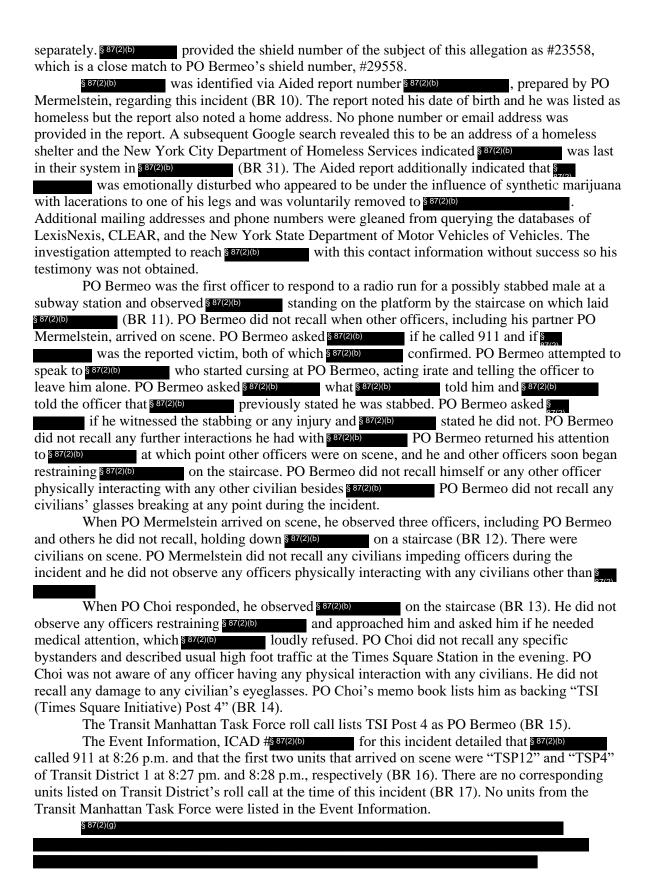
Cellphone footage was obtained from (BR 01-04) and surveillance footage was obtained from the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) (BR 05-06). The NYPD Legal Bureau indicated negative results for body-worn camera (BWC) footage related to this incident (BR 30). Neither Transit Manhattan Task Force nor the Midtown South Precinct were assigned BWCs at the time of the incident.

#### **Findings and Recommendations**

# Allegation A – Abuse of Authority: Police Office Cesar Bermeo used physical force against § 87(2)(b)

MTA footage capturing the Times Square subway station at the time of the incident, recording events on 15 different cameras from 7:45 p.m. to 9:45 p.m., did not capture any part of this entire incident. (BR 05-06).

was waiting for an uptown train on the $1-\frac{7}{2}$ -frain platform when he
observed 887(2)(b) bleeding from his leg and screaming from apparent pain (BR 07-09).
approached \$87(2)(b) to ask if he needed help. \$87(2)(b) had no intelligible
response so \$87(2)(b) called 911 to report that \$87(2)(b) was injured. He put \$87(2)(b)
on the phone with the 911 operator and \$87(2)(b) reported that he had been stabbed. Within
four minutes, approximately 12 officers, including PO Bermeo, emerged onto the platform from the
staircase upon which the \$87(2)(b) was sitting. Officers immediately surrounded \$87(2)(b)
and \$87(2)(b) PO Bermeo ordered \$87(2)(b) to move out of the way. \$87(2)(b) did not
move from where he was standing as he was concerned that the officers would not help
PO Bermeo reached out and grabbed the breast of \$87(2)(b) s sweater with both
hands. PO Bermeo turned \$87(2)(b) to the side and let go of \$87(2)(b) While PO Bermeo
did not use much force when he turned \$87(2)(b) s body, the action caused \$87(2)(b) to lose
his balance while coming off the staircase and he fell onto the ground of the train platform. Officers
began restraining §87(2)(b) on the staircase. After the incident, §87(2)(b) realized that the
right lens of his eyeglasses was missing which he believed was due to when PO Bermeo caused him
to fall. This property damage was deemed incidental to the alleged force and is not being plead



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### Allegation B: Police Officer Derrick Williams interfered with \$87(2)(5) s use of a recording device. Footage from § 87(2)(b) s cellphone best depicts this allegation (BR 01). In discussing the footage, the video player's durational timestamp will be referenced and there is no onscreen timestamp. The audio is distorted at times, which \$87(2)(5) confirmed might have been due to the way he was holding his cellphone as he recorded. From 00:30 to 00:45, \$87(2)(6) stands at the bottom of the staircase as he states he does not know \$87(2)(5) or what exactly happened An officer off-screen states, "I know, we and complains about officers' restraint of § 87(2)(b) tried to," and a 911 operator on speakerphone tells § 87(2)(b) that an ambulance will be there as soon as possible. At 00:45, \$87(2)(b) states, "No, I will not stop recording," and PO William asks, "What happened?" From 01:30 to 01:44, \$87(2)(b) moves and multiple officers on scene are depicted on or near the staircase and PO Williams is apparently the only black male. Additional footage from \$87(2)(b) seems s cellphone depicts, referencing the video player's durational timestamp, from 02:59 to 03:44, an officer speaks to \$87(2)(b) and asks for his identification, at which declines to provide it as he does not trust the officers (BR 02). did not raise this allegation in his initial verified statement though when reached out to for follow-up questions regarding the footage he provided, he confirmed that a 6'-tall black male officer in uniform with no glasses and close-cut hair told him to stop recording. When this officer asked him for his information later, §87(2)(b) told him he did not trust him or the other officers. PO Williams is a § 87(2)(b) . PO Williams had no recollection of the incident and did not recognize \$87(2)(b) or \$87(2)(b) when presented photographs (BR 18). PO Williams did not recognize the events depicted in above-referenced footage but identified himself as asking \$87(2)(b) "What happened?" He did not know why stated, "No, I will not stop recording." He additionally recognized his own voice or his partner PO Moti's, as PO Williams explained they have similar-sounding voices, as speaking to

when he is asked for his identification.

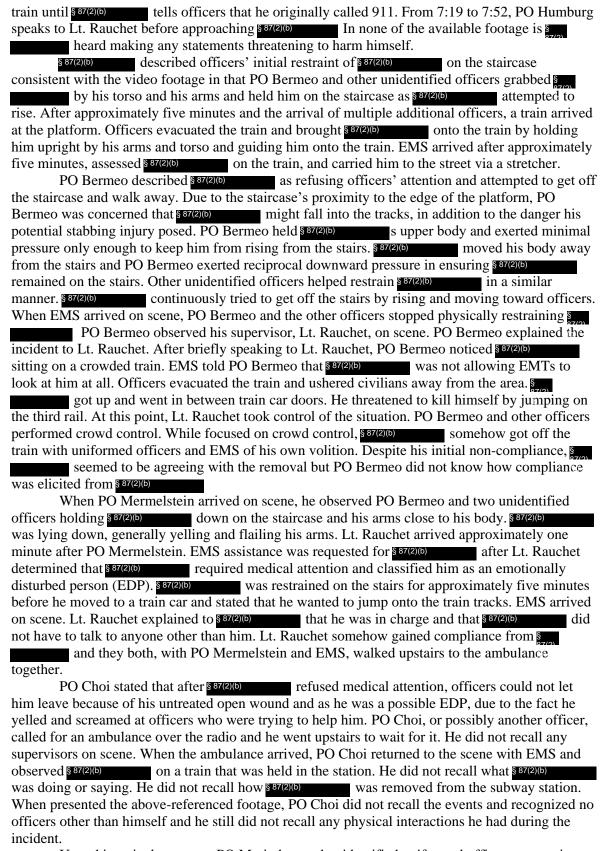
PO Moti recalled at one point during the incident an individual at the top of a staircase may have been recording the incident with his cellphone (BR 19). PO Moti was not aware of any officer who attempted to intervene with this individual's ability to record by telling him to stop recording. When presented the above-referenced footage, PO Moti did not know why stated, "No, I will not stop recording." He did not recognize the conversation or voices in the second portion of footage referenced above.

PO Bermeo, PO Mermelstein, PO Choi, and PO Humburg, did not recall any civilians attempt to record the incident nor any officers that intervened in such recording (BR 20).

§ 87(2)(g)		

## Allegation C – Abuse of Authority: Lieutenant Joseph Rauchet forcibly removed to the hospital.

Footage from \$37(2)(b) s cellphone depicts officers' initial restraint of \$37(2)(b) (BR 01). In discussing the footage, the video player's durational timestamp will be referenced and there is no onscreen timestamp. From 00:00 to 01:51, PO Bermeo, PO Choi, and another unidentified officer hold \$37(2)(b) s upper body as he tries to stand and the officers use their grips on his body to force him back down to the staircase. Footage from \$37(2)(b) s cellphone depicts Lt. Rauchet's involvement in the incident (BR 04). In discussing the footage, the video player's durational timestamp will be referenced and there is no onscreen timestamp. From 6:00 to 7:19, Lt. Rauchet is apparently speaking to EMS and then to \$37(2)(b) who is on an idling



Upon his arrival on scene, PO Moti observed unidentified uniformed officers attempting to

prestrain society by grabbing his arms. Society as an EDP because he was disorderly, behaved erratically and emotionally unstable. PO Moti could not provide specific examples for any of this behavior other than resisting restraint and generally yelling. PO Moti assumed crowd control duties and instructed members of the public to step back from the incident. Officers were unsuccessful in their restraint and society walked onto a train that had just pulled into the subway station.  Society went in between train cars and stated he wanted to jump on the third rail of the tracks. A plainclothes supervisor whom PO Moti did not recognize from an unknown command arrived on scene. PO Moti identified him as a supervisor due to his shield, though PO Moti did not recall the exact type of shield or rank. The supervisor told PO Moti and other officers to step back and set up a safety zone around the train and began to speak to society. PO Moti continued general crowd control. He did not recall EMS being requested or present on scene at any point. After observing officers from other commands in control of the situation, PO Moti and PO Williams resumed their routine patrol.  PO Humburg did not recall the incident.  The NYPD's Department Advocate's Office reported that Lt. Rauchet retired on February 1, 2019 (BR 21).  The Event Information, ICAD # FEVEND for this incident notes that EMS was dispatched at 8:27 p.m. by the 911 operator when Fevend first called, and they arrived on scene at 8:34 p.m. At 8:38 p.m., an unidentified lieutenant requested ESU and at 8:46 p.m., "TRANSIT" confirmed the ESU request for an EDP on the tracks. At 8:53 p.m., it was reported that a male EDP threatened to jump into the track area. At 9:04 p.m., a Times Square lieutenant clarified that the incident regarded an EDP Aided.  The Aided report prepared by PO Mermelstein regarding society.
hospital indicated that \$87(2)(6) had verbally threatened others, spoke of harming himself or others, and placed himself in a dangerous situation. PO Mermelstein did not recall any statements
made by \$87(2)(b) that verbally threatened others and only recalled \$87(2)(b) state that he wanted to jump on the tracks.
PO Bermeo, PO Mermelstein, and PO Moti were consistent in that Lt. Rauchet, a plainclothes supervisor, took control of the situation in removing \$87(2)(b) to a hospital with EMS after \$67(2)(b) threatened to jump on the tracks. This is corroborated by Lt. Rauchet's depicted actions in the video evidence. Though EMS was initially dispatched by the 911 operator when \$70(2)(b) the proported him as a stabling victim. Lt. Rauchet was actively involved in
when \$87(2)(b) reported him as a stabbing victim, Lt. Rauchet was actively involved in identifying \$87(2)(b) as an EDP and removing him to a hospital.  \$87(2)(9)
Allegation D: Police Officer Samantha Humburg stopped \$27,000
Footage from \$87(2)(b) s cellphone depicts Lt. Rauchet's involvement in the incident (BR 04). In discussing the footage, the video player's durational timestamp will be referenced and there is no onscreen timestamp. From 7:51 to 09:20, \$87(2)(b) speaks with PO Bermeo on the train platform regarding why he called 911, what he observed, and what he knew regarding is injury. PO Humburg stand nearby until 08:04 when she walks away to apparently speak to another individual. \$87(2)(b) is not depicted having any further interactions with officers. At 11:10, \$87(2)(b) moves upstairs from the platform and records people moving upstairs as EMS bring a gurney to the platform until the video ends. PO Humburg is not depicted having any direct interaction with \$87(2)(b)
stated that once \$87(2)(0) was removed from the subway station by  EMS. PO Humburg and PO Williams asked \$87(2)(0) if he could provide a statement regarding

PO Humburg, PO Williams, PO Moti, PO Bermeo, PO Mermelstein, and PO Choi had no recollection of this allegation.

§ 87(2)(g)

### Allegation E: Police Officer Cesar Bermeo took a photograph of sidentification.

stated that after PO Humburg allegedly stopped him and told him officers needed his phone number and identification, stated told officers he did not want to provide his phone number and allegedly handed his identification to PO Moti who took a photograph of it. PO Moti asked him what happened. statement to PO Moti and he reentered the subway station.

Though \$87(2)(b) named PO Moti as the subject of this allegation, the investigation determined that PO Bermeo took a photograph of \$87(2)(b) s identification.

PO Bermeo stated he did not recall taking any photographs during the incident and observed no officers take any photographs.

PO Moti did not know if he asked any civilians for any information or if he took any photographs of any civilians' identifications or anything else. He did not believe he did either.

PO Humburg and PO Williams did not recall the incident, and PO Mermelstein and PO Choi recalled no officers taking any photographs.

IAB provided all photographs taken by PO Bermeo on his department-issued cellphone during the incident, which included only a photograph of \$87(2)(b) s identification (BR 22). IAB indicated that PO Moti took no photos on his department-issued cellphone during the incident (BR 23).

Police officers are to use their department-issued smartphones for NYPD business and are permitted to use their phones to photograph or record the following: all enforcement encounters where there is at least reasonable suspicion that a person has committed or is committing criminal activity, all enforcement encounters where there is a reason to believe that the individual is committing an offense for which a summons may be issued, all vehicle stops, all incidents where an officer is taking or attempting to take a person into custody, all incidents involving force, any public interaction that escalates and becomes adversarial, all interior vertical patrols of buildings pursuant to certain sections of the <a href="Patrol Guide">Patrol Guide</a>, and following lawful entry pursuant to a search warrant (BR 24). Officers are prohibited from using their phones to photograph or record the following: encounters not directly relate to official activities in the proper performance of police duties, performance of non-enforcement functions or administrative duties with a Department facility, places where a reasonable expectation of privacy exits, attendance at events covered under the "Handschu Guidelines," a potential witness who requests to speak to an officer confidentially or desires anonymity, a victim or witness who requests they not be recorded, and access or entry to any premises to be searched pursuant to a warrant (<a href="NYPD Operations Order">NYPD Operations Order</a> 20).

§ 87(2)(g)

§	87(2)(g)
	Civilian and Officer CCDD Histories
7	Civilian and Officer CCRB Histories  This is the first CCRB complaint to which [87(2)(6)] has been party (BR 25).
	This is the first CCRB complaint to which \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{2}\$ has been party (BR 26).
	PO Bermeo has been a member-of-service for six years and has been subject of two
	allegations in one other CCRB complaint with no substantiations (see officer histor
	87(2)(g)
	PO Williams has been a member-of-service for 18 years and has been subject of the
	allegations in two other CCRB complaints with no substantiations (see officer histo
	87(2)(g)
	Lt. Rauchet was a member-of-service for 29 years and was subject of 11 other alleger in five other CCRB complaints with three substantiations (see officer history):
	<ul> <li>Case #200000491 involved three substantiated allegations of frisk and/or s</li> </ul>
	The Board recommended Charges and the NYPD imposed discipline and p
	were not available due to the lieutenant's retired status.
	O § 87(2)(g)
	PO Humburg has been a member-of-service for four years and has been subject of
	other allegation in one other CCRB complaint with no substantiations (see officer large)
3	0.1(2)(g)
	Mediation, Civil and Criminal Histories
§	rejected mediation.
	On December 23, 2019, a FOIL request was submitted with the New York City
	Comptroller's Office and will be added to the case file upon receipt (BR 27).
8	has no criminal convictions within New York City (BR 28).

Squad No.:	11		
Investigator:	Signature	Inv. Benjamin Shelton Print Title & Name	Date
Squad Leader:	Signature	IM Edwin Peña Print Title & Name	Date
Reviewer:			
	Signature	Print Title & Name	Date